

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-19 are pending in the current application. Claims 1, 5, 13 and 14 are independent claims. No new matter has been added. In view of the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-8 and 11-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Terasawa et al. (hereinafter "Terasawa"), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0147365. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have canceled claim 9 and incorporated the features of claim 9 into independent claims, 1, 5, 13, and 14. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Terasawa does not teach or suggest each of the limitations in the independent claims and therefore, claims 1, 5, 13 and 14 are allowable. In addition, at least in view of their dependency from claims 1, 5 and 14, claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-19 are also allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 9, which is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As Applicants have followed the Examiner's advice, allowance of the pending claims is requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-8, 10-19 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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